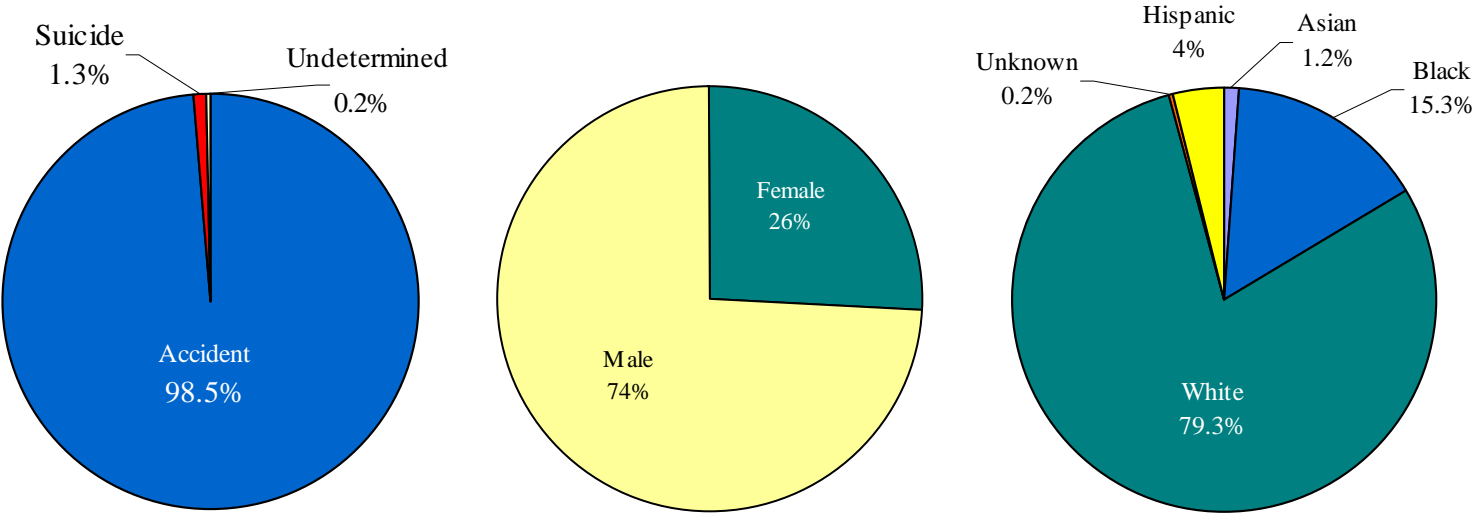


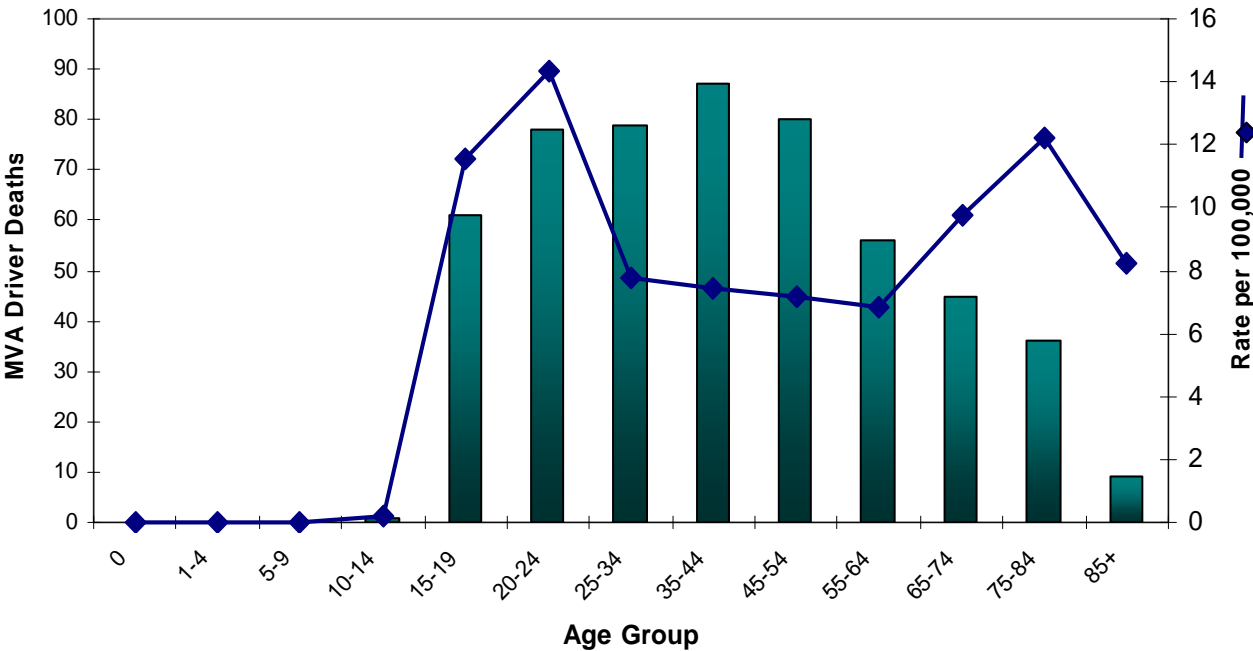
Motor Vehicle Deaths in Drivers, 2005

In 2005, the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner investigated 1,042 motor vehicle accident (MVA) related deaths. Of these deaths, 600 or 57.6% were the drivers of the motor vehicle. The following review examines drivers of traditional motor vehicles such as cars and trucks, but not ATVs or motorcycles.

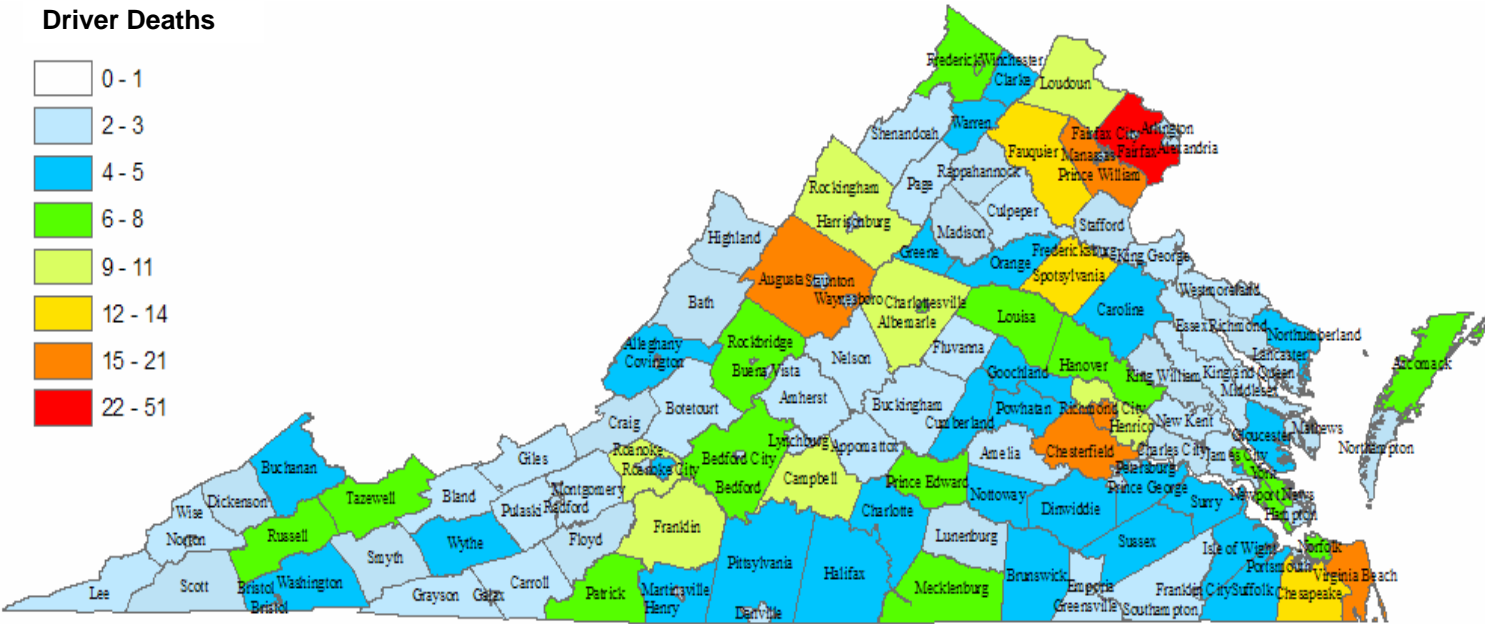
Most of the MVA driver deaths were accidents and involved whites and males.



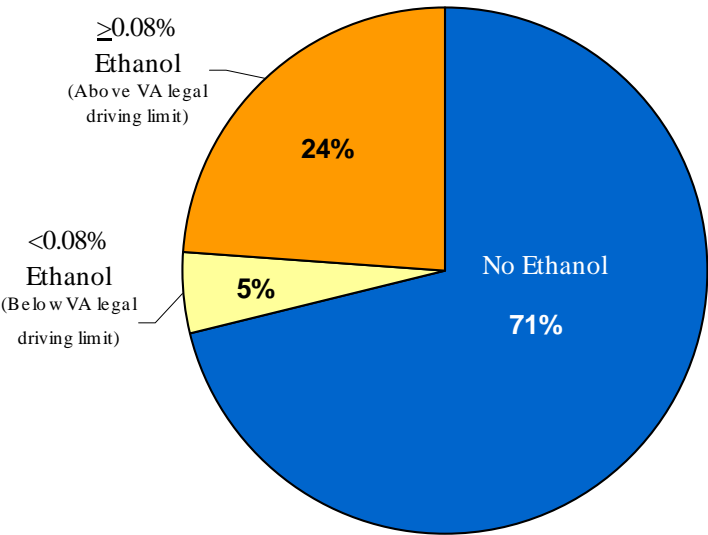
Of the 600 driver deaths, 532 or 88.7% were Virginia residents. The figure below shows that the highest death rates are in the 20-24 and 75-84 age groups.



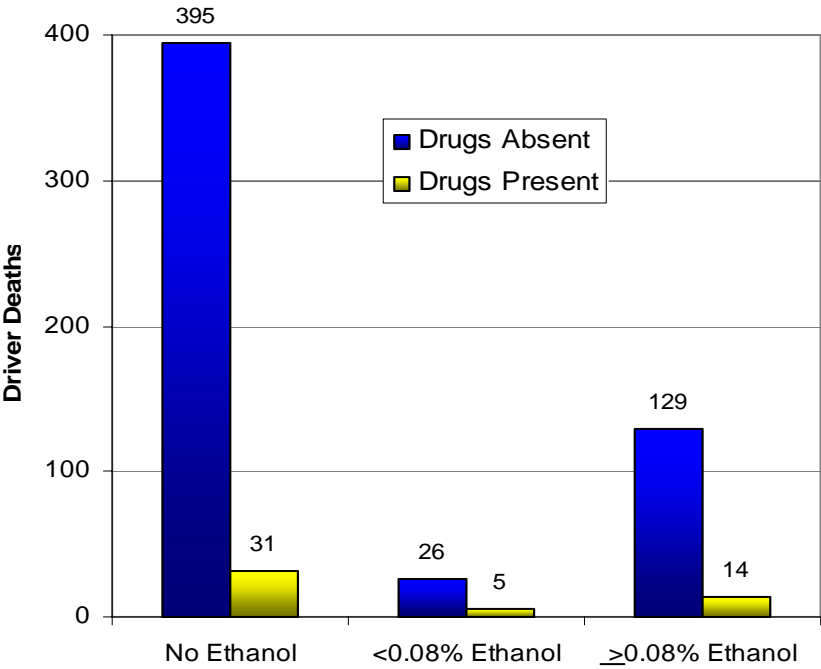
The highest numbers of driver deaths occurred in Fairfax, Prince William, Augusta, Chesterfield, and Virginia Beach Counties, and Richmond City.



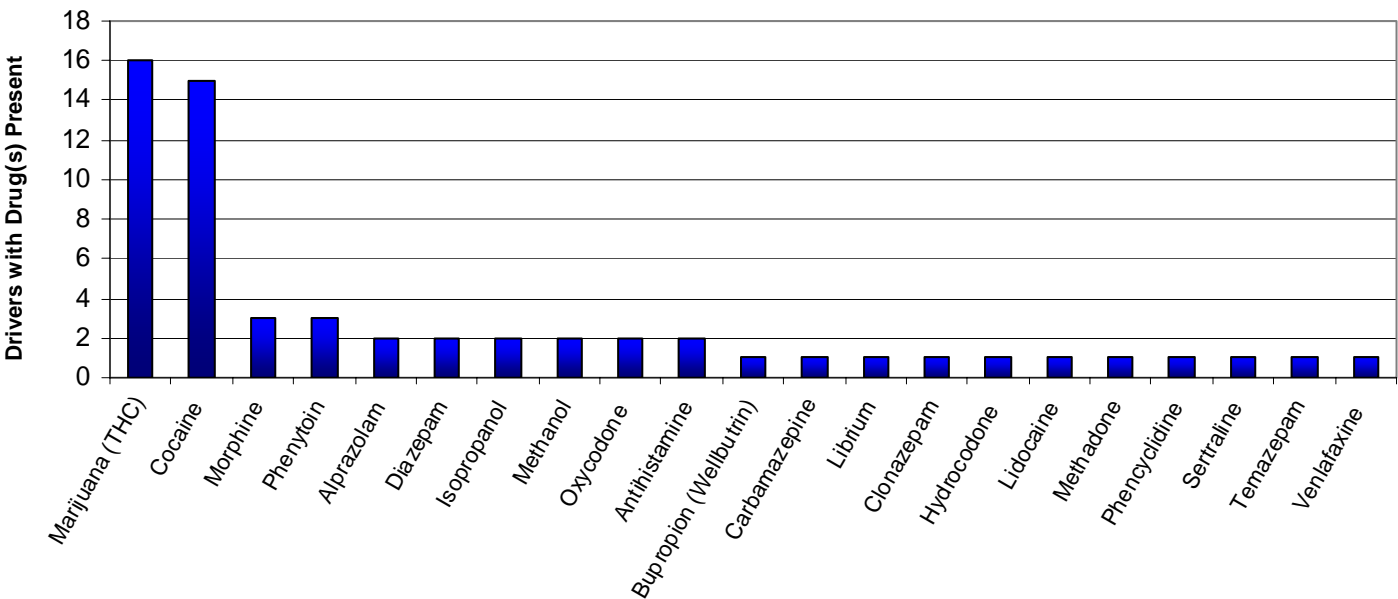
While the majority of drivers were found to **not** have ethanol in there system, almost 30% had detectable amounts of ethanol in their system at the time of their death. According to VA Code §[18.2-266](#) it is unlawful for any person to drive or operate a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more by weight by volume.



In addition to the presence of alcohol, 50 drivers also had drugs on board sometimes in combination with ethanol.



Marijuana and cocaine were the most frequently isolated drugs from driver decedents (N=50), and many of these drivers had multiple drugs in their systems.



For additionally information, visit the following websites:

- Virginia Crash Facts: http://www.dmv.state.va.us/webdoc/citizen/drivers/crash_facts.asp
- Drug Enforcement Administration: http://www.dea.gov/driving_drugged.html
- Teen Driving Website: <http://drivehomesafe.com/>
- AARP Driver Safety Website: http://www.aarp.org/families/driver_safety/